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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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February 1, 1992

To: Minerals File

From: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HWS*

Re: Field visit to Topaz Mountain Limestone Quarry, Rancho Equipment Services, S/023/022, Juab County, Utah

Date of Inspection: January 30, 1992
Time of Inspection: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Conditions: Cold, cloudy
Participants: Bob Thomas, Rancho Equipment Services; Rody Cox, BLM;
Holland Shepherd, Tony Gallegos, and Wayne Hedberg,
DOGM

The reason for this inspection was to inspect the site for the first time and to evaluate it for large mine status. The operation is very close to the 5 acre limit, and will very soon be over.

The site is accessed by following the Brush-Wellman road to the Topaz Mountain and Weiss Road turn-off. About 30 miles from the main road to Delta.

The site was initiated last spring and noticed under a Small Mine Permit. It is a limestone quarry. The lime is taken to the IPP power plant.

Presently, the site consists of a large fines reject pile (@ 20,000 cubic yards), small crushed ore pile (@ 8,000 cubic yards), and quarry (@ 2 acres). No buildings have been constructed on the site. A large above ground fuel tank (@ 5,000 gallons) is located on the main pad. A crusher is brought to the site periodically when the operator runs low on crushed product.

The topsoil pile is located between the large reject pile and the quarry. It has been compacted and flattened by heavy equipment. The operator indicated that the crusher sits on top of the topsoil pile, when on the site. The topsoil pile consists of @ 8,000 cubic yards of material.

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We told the operator that the topsoil stockpile should not be used as a staging area for the crusher and trucks. Since the operator's immediate plans would be severely disrupted by not being able to use the topsoil pad, at this time, the operator will be given a grace period to either move the pile or the staging area for the crusher. We told the operator the topsoil stockpile must be identified by signs and stabilized with an interim species.

We indicated to the operator that test plots for revegetation would not be necessary, since the soils in the area should not present a problem to plant establishment. Also, enough topsoil is apparently available onsite to cover the affected areas.

Plant species growing naturally on undisturbed adjacent areas of the site include: sage, rabbitbrush, shadscale, spiny horsebrush, matchweed, mormon tea, needle and thread. This is a predominantly desert shrub community.

A portion of the access road between the Brush-Wellman road and the Weiss road, is new and must be reclaimed in total.

The operator plans to backfill and grade down the quarry at the end of mining. Reject fines then topsoil will be used for the reclamation of the quarry. The operator may be able to sell the fines as a product, pending a forthcoming decision from the BLM concerning qualification of salability. Presently the quarry has a highwall approximately 30 feet high and 100 feet long. This will eventually be extended through the hillside and the mining proceeds.

The operator has filed a Plan of Operations with the BLM in anticipation of near future expansion. The BLM is presently preparing an Environmental Assessment of the expanded mine plan proposal. A total disturbance of @ 16 acres is projected which will need to be bonded. The Division will coordinate with the BLM to the extent possible in reviewing and approving the revised mine plan.

jb
cc: Rody Cox, BLM, House Range RA
Bob Thomas, Rancho Equipment Services
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